

First Presbyterian Church,
Racine, Wisconsin.

HABS NO. 28-8.
HABS
WIS.
51-RACI,
2-

Racine Co.

Photographs,
Written Historical and Descriptive Data.
District No. 28.

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Alexander C. Gutz, District Officer
1249 N. Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Seventh Street and College Avenue
Racine, Racine County
Wisconsin

Owner: Presbyterian Church.

Date of Erection: 1851 (cornerstone).

Architect: Lucas Bradley.

Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Brick; stone columns; wood tower.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This church is located in the city of Racine, Wisconsin, at the southwest corner of Seventh Street and College Avenue.

The corner stone bears the date of 1851. In the minister's study there hangs a life size portrait. Below it is a brass plate bearing the inscription "Lucas Bradley, Architect and Church Pillar." This together with other data from the church history proves beyond all doubt that the architect of this edifice was this Lucas Bradley. It is wondered where this architect Bradley received his professional training. This statement is made because in 1851 Racine was a mere backwoods town. The feeling and appreciation for things architectural had not been cultivated by the man on the street. Yet here was an architect practicing his profession as if he belonged to the immortals like Bulfinch, Latrobe and Mills. This church belongs in their class. The structure is reminiscent on the outside of a blend of London churches. The spire especially reminds one of some of Wren's or Gibb's churches.

This spire is constructed entirely of wood. Even the upper portions which are hardly discernible to the naked eye are carried out with much fidelity to detail.

The body of the building is a warm-toned cream brick. The elements have been very kind to this in that it

has discolored in a rather uneven but nevertheless attractive fashion. This same old age effect also applies to the huge Doric columns which are of stone.

The workmanship at the brick work is of the highest type. In none of the buildings of the Historic American Buildings Survey has there been found such a wealth of beautifully shaped moldings. Apparently much thought and study was given to them. Many are undercut in the cleverest manner imaginable.

The entire building is marked by sincerity and refinement and an entire freedom from excess or affectation. The disposition of the parts is so happy, its treatment so broad and simple that it produces an unusual effect.

Alvarez But
District Officer